



Wyoming Chapter— SWCS NewsSpring 2014

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Our Mission

Foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Targeting conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on working land—the land used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities. Working to discover, develop, implement, and constantly improve ways to use land that sustains its productive capacity and enhances the environment at the same time.

President-Elect's Message

Hello Everyone!

I am writing as the semester has just ended at University of Wyoming, here in Laramie, and field season is underway for those of us in the conservation professions. We have had some troublesome spring weather for trying to construct 2 large hoop houses on the farm, but this is Wyoming. Why would we expect differently?

As I sit in my dining room, surrounded by 6 trays of tomato plants that arrived recently, snow is falling outside the window. I'm reminded of the complexity of working in the natural resources fields. Mother Nature does, indeed, have the final say in how our plans and projects manifest. It can be exhilarating to spend time outside in the elements, and discouraging on days like this. We have Plan Bs and even Cs, and must be flexible.

We need managers to implement plans daily, to engage in the tactics of resource employment. And we need leaders with the foresight to strategize and inspire others to be flexible and get the job done under the best and worst circumstances. Management versus leadership is a trending topic in natural resources con-

servation. Where do you fall on the spectrum?

Speaking of management and leadership, it's time to recognize leaders in conservation in the State of Wyoming, as well as our own chapter members, through various chapter awards. The deadline for nominations is May 15. That doesn't give you much more time, but if you are thinking of making a nomination, contact your Area Director (p.5) or another officer, and we will help you get this done.

On that note, I will conclude my quarterly message with a few thanks: To Melanie Purcell, our Secretary and Area 4 Director, for her continued dedication to providing structure for our Board meetings; to Roni Schadeegg, our Treasurer, who deserves a huge congratulations for being awarded a Commendation Award by SWCS this year for service to the chapter and to the organization; to Area 1 Director Mark Opitz, who since taking on this position has been a stalwart supporter of our goals, and who is working hard to put together a stellar workshop to be held in Casper later in the year, on the topic of stream restoration (details to come); to Dan Mattke, who for two consecutive years led the



soils portion and Land Judging for WyRED; to Mike Kasten, who has stepped to the plate and volunteered to become our new Education and Outreach Director (see his bio in this newsletter); and to Dr. John Tanaka, Department Head of University of Wyoming Ecosystem Science and Management, who has offered assistance with this year's international conference in Lombard, IL.

Please let these leaders know they are appreciated for their support of our Wyoming Chapter. And thank you all for your continued membership and your commitment to natural resources conservation in this great State of Wyoming.

Lisa

Calendar of Events

- **May 15. Deadline for WY Chapter Award nominations.**
- **May 28 & 29, 2014: Northern Plains Regional Technical Meeting.** Hosted by Montana Chapter at the **Billings Public Library**. Featuring world renowned soil microbiology expert Dr. Elaine Ingham and a live stream broadcast from Kris Nichols, soil microbiologist at NRCS-ARS in Mandan, ND. \$45 SWCS members/ \$55 non-members early bird. \$55 members/\$65 non-members at the door. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Billings. For more information contact **Stacy Denny Eneboe** at **406-271-9156** or **Eneboe@3rivers.net**.
- **May 30-31, 2014: CO SWCS Summer Tour.** Waldo Canyon Fire erosion control and rehabilitation, Emergency Watershed Protection Plan, stream bank protection and a focus on cultural resource protection. \$15 Friday, \$80 Saturday, \$90 for both days. Room, meals, guided hike included. Register with **Barb Gohlke**, **coswcsmail@gmail.com**, by **May 22**.
- **June 10 & 11, 2014: Mother Nature Is Our Landlord... Finding Synergy in Oil Country.** 2014 Oil Field Trip and Soil and Water Summit: Oil Field Impacts and Reclamation. Hosted by ND SWCS and the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of ND at the **Rough Rider Hotel and Conference Center, Medora**. Registration on site. Contact ND SWCS President Lance Loken at **lloken@wpcnd.com** for more information.
- **June 23-27, 2014: WyRED.** Cheyenne, WY at the Harriman Retreat Center. More details on the way.
- **July 27 to 30, 2014: SWCS 69th International Conference, Lombard, IL.** Theme: *Making Waves in Conservation: Our Life on Land and its Impact on Water*.

Your SWCS Board News

Your Chapter Board has conducted two Board teleconferences since our last newsletter. Topics included WyRED plans, filling vacant slots on committees, and planning our Area 1 Technical Workshop, to be held in Casper late this summer or early fall.

Roni Schadegg has stepped into the role of History & Archives Chair. Mike Kasten is our new Education and Outreach Committee Chair. The Board moved to formalize this committee in the Bylaws, and to change the name of Newsletter Committee to Public Relations and Media Committee.

We regret to report that long time SWCS member and tremendously helpful Area 2 Director Gerald "Jerry" Schuman has stepped down from the Board.

Jerry was a member for several decades and has been published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. He is retired from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and though Jerry is out and about, his service to the chapter will be missed greatly. We wish you the best, Jerry. Stay in touch.

We are thrilled to report that Veronica "Roni" Schadegg, another long time SWCS member and WY Chapter and Society leader, has been selected to receive a Commendation Award at this year's International Conference in Lombard, IL. Roni, who currently serves as WY Chapter Treasurer and ad hoc former Northern Plains Regional representative to the Professional Development Committee, is truly deserving of this award. Congratulations, Roni!

Education Update:

The Board is in discussion of raising the annual scholarship award to an eligible college student to \$1,000. We will have this amount available for the 2015 award, and hope to be able to continue that amount into the future.

Welcome to Mike Kasten, a Soil Scientist with BKS Environmental Associates, in Gillette, WY, who has volunteered to take on the post of Education and Outreach Committee Chair. Mike's

biography appears on page 7. He has several great ideas for integrating education and outreach in our chapter activities.

Amanda Preddice, President of the SWCS Student Chapter at UWYO will attend the International Conference in Lombard, IL, in July.

The WY Chapter provided ... Earth Day bracelets to... and brought in ... for the chapter. Thanks to Crystal Killebrew for continuing to lead this annual activity.

SWCS Awards and Nomination Process

SWCS awards deadline has been extended this year to May 15. Award nomination forms and Scholarship applications are now all available electronically. Log on to <http://www.swcs.org/awards> or <http://www.swcs.org/scholarships> for further details.

Chapter members are encouraged to nominate members, nonmembers and students for the various awards.

Wyoming Chapter Awards nominations are due by Sunday, May 18.

Below are the award categories. If you have questions or need assistance submitting a nomination, please contact your Area Director (see page 5.)

Wyoming Chapter Awards Definitions

OUTSTANDING WYOMING CHAPTER MEMBER

Open to all Wyoming Chapter members for significant contributions to the objectives of SWCS at the Chapter level. The contributions could include leadership, long-term dedication, special workshops or conferences, officer duties, committee responsibilities or special contributions in conservation or education.

While many of our members are directly employed in the natural resource conservation field, accomplishments should be related to the Chapter with support and involvement with the Wyoming Chapter. In other words, although it may be part of one's job responsibilities, the nomination will be considered if the

project or work involved the Wyoming Chapter.

The nominee must be current in their membership, and member of the Wyoming Chapter. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION - WYOMING

Open to non-members with employment or activities in agriculture and natural resource conservation fields. Activities may be related to improvement or management of wetlands and riparian areas, erosion control, rangelands and grazing systems, cropping systems, water quality (surface or groundwater), wildlife and fish habitat or a combination of the above. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION EDUCATOR - WYOMING

Open to non-members for contributions to natural resource and conservation education. May be through the Wyoming School system, special workshops or conferences, agricultural organizations or other educational programs. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION NEWS REPORTER - WYOMING

Open to non-members in recognition of outstanding efforts in communicating natural resource conservation issues. May be the written word of newspapers and magazines or through the media of television or radio. Nomination by Wyoming Chapter members.

OUTSTANDING 4-H AWARD IN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Presented annually at the Wyoming State Fair. The Wyoming Chapter provides the plaque. Judging by State Fair 4-H officials.

RECOGNITION OF MANAGED NATURAL AREA

To recognize areas in which native vegetation is prominent. Eligible areas are those used for forestry, grazing, wildlife, recreation, nature center, watershed protection, scientific study or similar purposes. Recognition certificate and natural area directory listing. Nomination by Chapter.

CHAPTER HORIZON AWARD

Must be a member of the Wyoming Chapter.

Must have been a member of SWCS for 10 years or less.

Candidate must have progressed satisfactorily within their profession.

Candidate must have been involved as an SWCS officer or on a committee.

(Current Officers and Committee Chairs are eligible).

One Award may be made annually at the Annual Meeting if there is a quality

nomination or candidate. The award winner will be decided on by the previous

years winner in consultation with the Awards Committee until we have three

winners. At that point it will be decided on by a committee of the last three Chapter Horizon Award winners subject to (continued on page 7)

Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Committee Chairs:

Annual Meeting Program –
Vacant

Awards –
Vacant

Education and Outreach –
Mike Kasten
920-843-2323
mkasten@bksenvironmental.com

Fundraising –
Vacant

History and Archives –
Roni Schadegg
307-233-6747
schadegg2@bresnan.net

Membership –
Vacant

Nominations and Elections –
Theresa Bowen
307-233-6756
Theresa.bowen@wy.usda.gov

Public Relations & Media –
Lisa Cox
307-760-0438
bebetterwriter@gmail.com

Scholarship –
Dicksie Michael
307-754-9301 ext 101
dicksie.michael@wy.usda.gov

If we pollute the air, water and soil that keep us alive and well, and destroy the biodiversity that allows natural systems to function, no amount of money will save us.

David Suzuki

Society News

The **69th ASWCS International Conference** will be held in **Lombard, IL**, outside Chicago, **July 27-30**. This year's theme is "Making Waves in Conservation: Our Life on Land & Its Impact on Water."

Sunday will feature half-day workshops, including Nitrogen Tools, Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) and Social Media Use, in addition to House of Delegates meeting, Fellows Forum and Welcome Reception.

Ongoing symposia and program topics include Outreach, Education and Community Engagement, Cover Cropping, Social Sciences in Land Management, Conservation Policy and Program Design, and Conservation Models, Tools and Technologies. Soil Health, Water Resource Assessment and Management, and a new track, Conservation in Organic and Specialty Markets, will be featured as well.

There will be three Wednesday educational tours: Stewardship, Sustainability and the Suburbs; Chicago Botanic Garden, and O'Hare International Airport Sediment Control.

Registration and travel information can be found at: <http://www.event.com/events/2014-swcs-international-annual-conference/event-summary-b907c736ec924bc98206d8c44033acd2.aspx>

Look for a recap of the conference in our Summer newsletter.

Society leaders continue to assess and discuss soil health strategies, including policy and practice, to conserve this important natural resource. A recent National Press Club meeting, hosted by the Farm Foundation (Oak Brook, IL) and The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation (Armore, OK), and attended by John Peterson, SWCS Washington DC Representative, revealed the following facts:

The current 7 billion people in the world are fed by arable land that comprises 10% of the world's land area.

- Soil is being lost at a rate 10 to 40 times the rate at which it can naturally be replenished.
- The average rate of US soil erosion is 7 tons/acre/year.
- At current degradation rates the world has about 60 years of topsoil left.
- More than 90% of the fruits and 78% of the vegetables produced in the U.S. are grown on farms located closest to cities – directly in the path of development.
- Soil erosion globally costs an estimated \$400 billion per year.
- Every year the U.S. loses more than one million acres of land to development, land that is ideally suited to growing food.
- Most farmers can increase soil organic matter in 3-10 years if motivated to adopt conservation practices.

WyRED 2014

This year's Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED), hosted by the Society for Range Management (SRM) and assisted by WY SWCS, will take place at the Harriman Center between Laramie and Cheyenne, WY. WyRED camp is offered to youth who have completed 8th grade, through age 18, and adults are welcome as well. Teachers may receive professional development credits.

The program offers an array of learning opportunities about natural resources, from plant identification to land judging to rangeland management. Cameron Clark, NRCS—Douglas, will be our SWCS representative this year, covering soils and land judging. The chapter is prepared again to sponsor WyRED with financial contribution and land judging prizes.

Below are photos from last year's WyRED, in Pinedale.



Wyoming Chapter Leaders

Officers:

Vacant, President

Lisa Cox, President-Elect
307-760-0438
bebetterwriter@gmail.com

Cory Cole, Past President
Cory.cole@ak.usda.gov

Roni Schadegg, Treasurer
307-233-6747
schadegg2@bresnan.net

Melanie Purcell, Secretary
307-367-2257 ext. 108
mpurcell@sublettecd.com

Area Directors:

Mark Opitz, Area 1
307-234-8019
mwopitz@gmail.com

Vacant, Area 2
307-632-6120

Isabelle Giuliani Area 3
307-745-9301 ext. 121
Isabelle.Giuliani@wy.usda.gov

Melanie Purcell, Area 4
307-367-2257 ext. 108
mpurcell@sublettecd.com



Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day.

Gifford Pinchot

We're on the Web!

[http://
wyswcs.weebly.com](http://wyswcs.weebly.com)

BE WARM AND SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER!

Wyoming Chapter has hoodies for sale. They are a light, versatile sand color, with the SWCS logo on the chest. Quality Gildjian heavy blend 50/50 cotton/poly for warmth, durability and ease of cleaning.

Proceeds for these sweatshirts go straight to your chapter to fund workshops, scholarships, awards, and other Wyoming activities.

\$35.00 if picked up in person (will be available at meeting in November),
\$40.00 includes shipping to you.

Contact Lisa Cox to order your sweatshirt today! bebetterwriter@gmail.com. Specify quantity and size (M, L or XL).



News From Around the Regions

As Mike Collins of the Colorado Chapter moves to the Southwest Region to continue his Regional Director responsibilities, we welcome Don Wysocki, of Oregon, as our new Northern Plains Regional Director.

With passage of the new Board structure for SWCS, our region has extended greatly in size, stretching from Nebraska in the "southeast" to British Columbia in the "northwest." Representing the diversity of landscapes and soil and water conservation issues over such a large area will be a challenge, and Don is the first to take this on. We look forward to hearing from him in the future as he reaches out to the chapters he represents.

Colorado Chapter has formed a Science Fair Committee that already has bestowed awards upon two students.

Montana Chapter also offers materials and instructions for Circle of Earth Earth Day Bracelets. The Chapter also has soil painting kits which include five different soil samples from across the state, along with instructions. Montana Chapter will host this year's North-

ern Plains Technical Meeting, with a focus on soil health and soil microbiology.

The National Cover Crops and Soil Health Conference was recently held in Omaha, Nebraska. Videos of the presentations can be found at <http://www.sare.org/Events/National-Conference-on-Cover-Crops-and-Soil-Health/Cover-Crop-Innovators-Video-Series>.

Nebraska Chapter will hold its 2014 Annual Meeting, themed Managing Our Resources: Plants, Soil and Water, in Gothenburg, June 12 through 14.

Oklahoma Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting at Robbers Cave State Park on June 6 and 7, with the theme Grazinglands Soil Health.

The 6th Annual World Congress on Conservation Agriculture will take place June 22-25, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Sustainable intensification, climate resilient systems, and innovations in adoption will be featured strands at this conference. More information can be found at: <http://www.wcca6.org/>

Resilient Agriculture: Adapting to a Changing Climate, is a conference scheduled for August 5-7 in Ames, Iowa, and targeted especially toward corn belt farmers.

(continued from page 3)

review by the Awards Committee to assure the selection meets eligibility criteria.

The Award will be presented by the winner from the previous year with only the selection committee and the Awards Committee knowing who it is beforehand.

Awards nominations can be submitted to your Area Director (see page 5), and will be considered by the entire Board. There is a on-page form to be completed, which your Director or another officer can offer you.

Additionally, Wyoming Chapter seeks an Awards Committee Chair who would announce awards categories and deadlines, solicit and accept awards nominations packets, and work with the Board to choose awards recipients annually. If you are interested in taking on this important, but marginally time consuming, role, please contact a chapter Area Director or Officer. Thank you.

The deadline for nomination submissions is May 18.

Upcoming Events!

We have several excellent learning and networking opportunities coming up around the region, from the Northern Plains Technical Meeting, hosted by Montana Chapter in Billings, to an oil fields tour and meeting hosted in part by North Dakota Chapter, and a wildfire impacts and soil erosion and rehabilitation tour hosted by Colorado Chapter.

Stay tuned also for more information on our own Wyoming Chapter Technical Workshop, to feature stream restoration. We expect to have a number of speakers from various professional fields and agencies, as well as at least one field trip to see the Platte River restoration project being conducted by the City of Casper.

See the white paper on the Platte River Revival at:
http://www.casperjournal.com/pdf_4eac133f-e13c-5311-98f4-ddbfa7247ae4.html

The Technical Workshop this year will be hosted by Area 1. Your Area 1 Director Mark Opitz has been working tirelessly to get this opportunity off the ground, and we look forward to a great learning and networking opportunity later in the summer or early in the fall.

Meet Your New Education and Outreach Committee Chair: Mike Kasten

Mike Kasten, originally from Wisconsin and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, has been working with BKS Environmental Associates of Gillette since 2010. This position has allowed him to work with a diverse array of clients and industries while traveling around this beautiful state. In his free time Mike enjoys hiking, camping, and climbing peaks. His goal in stepping into the Education and Outreach committee role is to make more people aware of the importance of the soil beneath our feet.



Spread the Word.

Talk with your fellow co-workers, students, and those individuals you know who have an interest in our natural resources. If you would like some brochures that answer the following questions...

Who Belongs to SWCS?

What does the Wyoming Chapter Do?

Why Join?

How Do I Become a Member?

Where Can I Learn More?

When did SWCS Organize?

contact any of the Wyoming SWCS Chapter leaders listed in this newsletter, and we will get some brochures to you.

Wyoming Chapter of SWCS
Newsletter Editor
562 N. Fifth Street A
Laramie, WY 82072
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED